



Thomas Shapley, Senior Director

Washington State Department of Social & Health Services
Public Affairs



Meet Thomas Shapley

Thomas Shapley serves as the Department's Public Affairs Senior Director. He leads the team that handles the agency's internal and external communications, including media relations, publications, constituent services, Victim-Witness Notification Program and Washington Mentors Program.

Thomas spent more than 30 years as a professional newspaper journalist, the last 17 of which were as editorial writer and columnist for The Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Before joining the Post-Intelligencer Editorial Board, he had worked as a reporter, photographer, editor, editorial writer and columnist with weekly and daily newspapers in five Western states.

After retiring from the Post-Intelligencer, he began his state government career in 2006 as communications director for the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. He joined the DSHS Executive Leadership Team in 2008.

Thomas holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Central Washington University. He served as adjunct faculty at Arizona State University, teaching upper-level communications courses.